

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A method for making an imaged flexographic printing sleeve, the method comprising the steps of:
 - a) providing seam layout information representing an arrangement of one or more precursor sections on a sleeve substrate;
 - b) automatically cutting a flexographic printing precursor into the one or more precursor sections using a controllable cutting device responsive to the seam layout information;
 - c) creating a flexographic printing sleeve by attaching the one or more precursor sections to the sleeve substrate; and
 - d) imaging the flexographic printing sleeve.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 comprising the further step of defining the arrangement based on at least an image to be imaged on the flexographic printing sleeve.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1 comprising the further steps of:
 - a) displaying a preview of an image to be imaged on the flexographic printing sleeve;
 - b) defining the arrangement based on the preview; and
 - c) deriving at least a part of the seam layout information from the arrangement.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1 comprising the further step of deriving at least a part of the seam layout information according to an algorithm.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4 comprising the further step of defining the arrangement based on at least an image to be imaged on the flexographic printing sleeve.

6. (Original) The method of claim 4 comprising the further steps of:

- a) displaying a preview of an image to be imaged on the flexographic printing sleeve;
- b) defining the arrangement based on the preview; and
- c) deriving at least a part of the seam layout information from the arrangement.

7. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the algorithm minimizes flexographic printing precursor wastage.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least a part of the arrangement of the one or more precursor sections is in the form of one of:

- a) lanes and
- b) a staircase shape.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of imaging is performed digitally.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of imaging is performed by ablation.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the ablation comprises ablating a UV opaque mask layer on the one or more precursor sections while the one or more precursor sections are attached to the sleeve substrate.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the ablation comprises directly engraving the one or more precursor sections.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the ablation is performed while the one or more precursor sections are attached to the sleeve substrate.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of attaching the one or more precursor sections to the sleeve substrate occurs on one of:

- a) a mounting device and
- b) a digital imaging device.

15. (Original) The method of claim 1 comprising the further step of determining registration information representing the arrangement.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 comprising the further step of defining the arrangement from at least an image to be imaged on the flexographic printing sleeve.

17. (Original) The method of claim 1 comprising the further steps of:

- a) displaying a preview of an image to be imaged on the flexographic printing sleeve;
- b) defining the arrangement based on the preview; and
- c) determining registration information, at least part of the registration information being determined from the arrangement.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17 comprising the further step of deriving from the arrangement at least a part of the seam layout information.

19. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein at least a part of the registration information is determined according to a first algorithm.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19 comprising the further step of deriving at least a part of the seam layout information according to a second algorithm.

21. (Original) The method of claim 19 comprising the further step of defining the arrangement based on at least an image to be imaged on the flexographic printing sleeve.

22. (Original) The method of claim 19 comprising the further steps of:

- a) displaying a preview of an image to be imaged on the flexographic printing sleeve;
- b) defining the arrangement based on the preview; and
- c) determining at least a part of the registration information from the arrangement.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22 comprising the further step of deriving from the arrangement at least a part of the seam layout information.

24. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the step of attaching the one or more precursor sections to the sleeve substrate occurs on one of:

- a) a mounting device and
- b) a digital imaging device.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein the mounting device is responsive to the registration information.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the registration information comprises positioning information for the attaching of the one or more precursor sections to the sleeve substrate.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein the positioning information comprises registration marks.

28. (Original) The method of claim 26. wherein the positioning information comprises indexing information.

29. (Original) The method of claim 15 comprising the further step of printing registration marks on the sleeve substrate prior to the attaching the one or more precursor sections to the sleeve substrate, the printing being done in accordance with the registration information.

30. (Original) The method of claim 29 comprising the further step of applying an adhesive layer to an outer surface of the sleeve substrate prior to the printing.

31. (Original) The method of claim 29 comprising the further step of applying an adhesive layer to an inner surface of the one or more precursor sections prior to the attaching the one or more precursor sections to the sleeve substrate.

32. (Original) The method of claim 1 comprising the further step of printing on at least a part of the one or more precursor sections at least one of reference indicia and reference characters.

33. (Original) The method of claim 32, wherein the further step of printing is done in accordance with the seam layout information.

34. (Original) The method of claim 32, wherein at least one of reference indicia and reference characters are printed on the at least a part of the one or more precursor sections prior to the step of automatically cutting the flexographic printing precursor.

35. to 67. (Cancelled)